

**TOWN OF NEW GLARUS
PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES
THURSDAY AUGUST 8, 2013 @ 7:00 PM**

ATTENDING: Dana Emmerton, Andy Elkins, Chris Narveson, Chris Reis, and Susan McCallum, Deputy Clerk

ABSENT: Pete Raskovic

ALSO ATTENDING: Lynn Paron, Paul Jennrich

CALL TO ORDER: C. Narveson called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

AGENDA:

1. Proof of Posting: Deputy Clerk attested to proper posting.
2. Approve Minutes of May 8 and July 11, 2013 Parks Minutes: D. Emmerton moved to approve the May 8 minutes, A. Elkins 2nd. Motion carried. A. Elkins moved to approve the July 11 minutes, C. Reis 2nd. Motion carried.
3. Public Comments: Lynn Paron appeared before the commission to address the tennis courts condition. Many activities occur at the site including waffle and kick ball. She uses them for a summer tennis program of max. 32 children that always fills. Quite a few years ago when the village owned the courts prior to giving them to the school district; the Town had stated they would annually put money aside for repairs/maintenance. She wondered what the Town's Parks Commission position is regarding recreation in this regard as she had heard talk about developing baseball fields in this location. There are competing issues for space regarding baseball, tennis and soccer activities and the proposed locations are low and prone to flooding. She asked if the town would be willing to put funds into the tennis courts. C. Narveson asked how many children attend her summer program from the town. She said at least half, some children even from Monticello. She will look at specific numbers and get back to the commission.

She also wanted to know whether the Park Commission would do a program on bee keeping. She keeps bees and believes there would be a lot of interest in this type of event. She knows a woman in Madison, Jean Hanson that would put on a program and a company, Capital Bee Supply that would bring products for demonstration. C. Narveson said he knew someone in the town that could also speak to honey production. L. Paron said she uses bees for pollination, and suggested a fall program would enable people to build their boxes over the winter for the next spring. She said bees need to be ordered by March 13, and they are delivered in early April. She said she had spoken with D. Emmerton about bees, and gave her the woman's information for contacting in regard to how far out she schedules her events. It was decided to put the tennis courts discussion on the October meeting. There was a brief discussion regarding pavement types and multi-use possibilities.
4. Review; handouts, program updates form: S. McCallum distributed the 2012 budget balance and a brochure from Nature Net with Passports we received, both with brief explanations. The program update form was reviewed for completed programs, timelines, activities and

future projects for the 2014 budget.

5. Discuss and consider trails and easements; review maps/draft letter to property owners, review Parks Plan: S. McCallum presented the information obtained since last meeting in regards to the Drainage District, Parks plan and research already done, and DNR contact possibility for October or November meeting. A. Elkins said Chris Newberry may know this contact as he had to work with the person on his project. John Ott replied that there isn't any concerns to be addressed with the Drainage District. She made a contact with Todd Jensen from Green County Land and Water Conservation. They are the group removing stream bank trees and seeding on the Little Sugar River from the bridge by Roy's to Hwy C in Monticello, creating a 20 foot buffer. A. Elkins mentioned it will be nice to talk to someone about what can be done in the drainage districts regarding impeding water flow. He said his information is that if the walk is elevated you have a better chance because the water flows underneath; as opposed to a berm (created by a raised path) that channels water. There was discussion concerning path surface choices and maintenance. C. Narveson said one of the benefits of this trail concept is assisting people who have talked to him about the lack of cross country skiing venues. He reviewed the 2011 Parks Plan and the commission is following the concepts in the plan. D. Emmerton suggested the place to start is with the easiest to develop and the most utilized which will create public support. There was continued discussion regarding types of trails based upon soil conditions, possible input from motels and prevent access to motorized vehicles. There was consensus to create a walking trail per the Parks Plan. The maps were reviewed and possible choices for trails based upon limited number of property owners, length of trail and connecting with the New Glarus Brewery. Also discussed was starting with mowed grass and evaluate participation as a trial, then possibly upgrade to harder surface and benches etc. L. Paron will contact the person who worked on easements for Donald Park, the group she has been involved with developing that Dane County park. Parcel maps were reviewed and trail options were discussed including ways to cross the small streams. There was consensus that C. Narveson and the Deputy Clerk will work together to finalize letters to the land owners asking to meet to discuss mowed path easements. C. Reis suggested including with them verbiage from the parks plan regarding hold harmless in the easement. Because Voegli's property is key to either trail option considered, they will be the first contact and then the Brewery. S. McCallum will take pictures of the mowed path at BBRC to include with letters so property owners could visualize the type of path.
6. Review and discuss impact fees: S. McCallum reviewed the new building in the Town that has increased fee balances.
7. Discuss and consider:
 - a. Barn Workshop; expenditure of \$150 for building rental, speaker(s), flier- creation, printing, mailing, location set-up: C. Reis moved to spend \$150 for the barn rental, A. Elkins 2nd. Motion carried. The location has been reserved. Speaker is the critical element; suggestions are Kim Tschudy, Lauren Meinert (Zweiffel Construction), C. Reis's contact, Lynn Lokken- Barn Quilts, closest person from list. Other possible speakers included; suggestions from D. Emmerton a panel of speakers or someone from the historical society that may talk about historical renovations, C Reis someone from the barn tour she attended. It was decided that the following will make calls to people for a speaker: Kim-C. Narveson, Zweiffel- A. Elkins, Contractor List- A. Elkins. It was decided to try the local

people first and then expand to the contractor list if needed. The decision to postpone the event will be based on confirmation of speakers by August 16. C. Reis suggested we try calling Lauren now, 9:30; you may be able to reach him. C. Narveson called him from the meeting and got his home number, he called that number and talked with Lauren who will check his schedule and C. Narveson asked him to respond to the Town offices.

Printing can be done at school; just need lead time in the summer, by end of third week in August for mailing by Labor Day weekend. Needs to be mailed two weeks ahead of the event, possible special meeting to complete flier for mailing etc. Possible special meeting to put together mailings on the 27th.

Tree program pre-order form will be developed by S. McCallum using last year's species removing the Juniper, prices to be determined and made available at the workshop with pricing structure to vary depending on quantities. D. Emmerton suggested a down payment of half of the order due to guarantee order. Also suggested that people can contact the Town office to place their order by a pre determined deadline date. Final species, prices and down payment amount to be determined at the September meeting.

b. Tree Program 2014, Paul Jennrich: There was consensus to move this item ahead of the others. C. Narveson spoke about the Commission working with the village for Arbor Day. A. Elkins said our program was a huge success without all customers getting product. He said the plan is to keep the size of trees the same, not as large as what the village plants. C. Narveson also asked what Paul's suggestion would be regarding tree types. They had checked with Bluemladers and the types ordered were not in conflict with her inventory. P. Jennrich said most the people in town recognize the common trees such as Maple. Occasionally he talks to people who are interested in ornamentals such as ginkgo, etc. He said in the village there are restrictions regarding plantings under power lines and evergreens in terraces. He pre-orders specific trees for specific people but did like the concept the Town used. A. Elkins said the commission is considering pre-booking as P. Jennrich and have a little extra because of quantities necessary in ordering. C. Narveson suggested a two tier pricing based on volume is a possibility and advertise the program along with the Barn Renovation Workshop. A. Elkins explained the delay in the pine trees due to a late winter in northern growing areas the deciduous can be dug in the fall because they are already dormant. P. Jennrich said he has worked with Jungs before, his experience was they called and said come get them and he needed to keep them in storage until planting. With McKays they kept them on refrigeration until needed. D. Emmerton asked does he have a planting day and he delivers them, people don't need to come pick them up. C. Narveson asked when we get our list of trees together would he consider reviewing. He agreed to do that. D. Emmerton asked are certain trees more expensive. P. Jennrich said he likes to do bare root because of price, some trees need to come potted because they are slow growing or do better with a larger root ball. He said there are many trees that would be good choices for the town areas, whether the commission wants to stay with native trees or diversify. C. Narveson said he would like to see people plant tree snow fences. A. Elkins said the forester that spoke at our last tree workshop did a good job with this topic. P. Jennrich tries to pre-order in December but lately usually sometime in January. McKay nursery allows him to add and subtract from his order, and is able to order just one or a few of a kind. A. Elkins asked what kind of volume he typically orders. He said the lowest around 40 and highest 100. He said it depends on homeowners' needs for trees in the terrace. Originally they sent letters street by street, now just public notices. He also keeps his eyes open for a need, plus contacting new homeowners. The majority are planted in terraces, parks and occasionally in a yard. C.

Narveson said in 2014 he is planning to do the stream bank. Yes he would use what the town gave in \$ for the project. P. Jennrich said that Chris Newberry, the person organizing project, had said more like an oak savanna or nut trees and there has been discussion regarding establishing grasses first. Also working with school to combine monies to do this. About ten years ago they planted some trees around the grade school, and the classes raised some funds. There is a swamp white oak planted 19 years ago at 4' in the park across from the lumber yard and now is about 20'. He spoke about several issues regarding oaks due to the local soils. There was additional discussion regarding types of oaks and their viability. He said he would stay in contact with the commission sharing any issues or opportunities. S. McCallum asked him whether there would be any joint ordering opportunities; A. Elkins said the size is the issue. P. Jennrich said because of our smaller sizes they would need to be planted farther away from children who tend to damage or mowing. He also said the deer come into the Valle Tell area and he has to fence the trees. If the town was looking to put a larger tree on town property he could assist. There was a general discussion regarding plans for Hoesly pond and tree possibilities. The commission will forward him a list of what they are proposing for 2014 for his review. He will keep the commission posted regarding the spring oak planting at the school.

8. Discuss website and Facebook page updates: S. McCallum handed out information on new Insights on Facebook, changes to website including Geocaching link and provided information regarding a cache at the BBRC.
9. Schedule Next Meeting and Set Agenda: There may be a need for a special meeting on Tuesday Aug. 27 to prepare for mailing of flier. Next regular meeting Sept. 12 for planning.
10. Adjourn: A. Elkins moved to adjourn at 9:51pm, D. Emmerton 2nd. Motion carried.